

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 9 and 11-17 and amend claims 1-4 and 10 as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ball valve unit comprising:
~~a main section formed of a rigid material;~~
~~a flange formed of said rigid material and as a continuous portion of said main section;~~
~~— a ball valve including a ball;~~
~~— a chamber formed in said main section for accommodating said ball of said ball valve;~~
and
~~— a handle for actuating said ball valve.~~

a ball section, said ball section defining a stem chamber and a ball chamber, said stem chamber disposed adjacent to and extending outwardly from said ball chamber;
— a ball valve including a ball, said ball disposed completely within said ball chamber;
— a stem disposed within and extending outwardly from said stem chamber and connected to said ball disposed within said ball chamber, an exposed portion of said stem extending beyond said stem chamber;
— a handle connected to said exposed portion of said stem disposed within said stem chamber and connected to said ball, wherein actuation of said handle effects actuation of said ball for operating said ball valve unit;
— a main section;
— a drain valve communicating with at least one of the ball section and said main section;
and
— a flange formed as a continuous portion of at least one of said main section and said ball section, said ball section including said stem chamber and said ball chamber, wherein said flange, said main section and said ball section including said stem chamber and said ball chamber being formed as a single piece formed of a rigid material.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ball valve unit of claim 1, wherein said ball valve unit further includes a gasket disposed adjacent to said flange for forming a seal between said flange and said an appliance.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ball valve unit of claim 1, wherein said main section is and said ball section are made of brass.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ball valve unit of claim 1, further including an end cap attached to at least one of said main section and said ball section.

5. (ORIGINAL) The ball valve unit of claim 4, wherein said main section and said end cap are made of brass.

6. (ORIGINAL) The ball valve unit of claim 1, wherein an outside surface of said flange is substantially flat.

7. (ORIGINAL) The ball valve unit of claim 1, wherein said handle is wing-shaped.

8. (ORIGINAL) The ball valve unit of claim 4, wherein an inner diameter of said chamber is substantially equal to an inner diameter of said end cap.

9. (CANCELLED)

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ball valve unit of claim 1, wherein said drain valve is disposed between said flange and said ball valve, comprising:

— a main section formed of a rigid material;

— a flange formed of said rigid material and as a continuous portion of said main section;

— a ball valve including a ball;

— a chamber formed in said main section for accommodating said ball of said ball valve;

- _____ a handle for actuating said ball valve; and
- _____ a drain valve formed in said main section for draining said ball valve unit.

11. – 17. (CANCELLED)